

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A fuel filter comprising

a filter housing,

at least one fuel inlet (2) provided on the filter housing,

at least one fuel outlet (3) provided on the filter housing,

~~a means~~ **an element** located in the filter housing for separating **which separates** water from the fuel,

at least one sump **(51)** ~~(4, 32, 44, 51)~~ located in the filter housing for collecting the water separated from the fuel,

a water outlet **(52)** ~~(5, 41, 52)~~ provided on the filter housing associated with **through** **which water drains from** the sump,

~~control means (6) for~~ **a valve (53) which opens and closes** the water outlet **(52)** ~~(5, 41, 52)~~, and

means **mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet** for separating contaminants from ~~[[the]]~~ water ~~to be~~ **which has been** drained ~~[[off]]~~ from the sump, said

means for separating contaminants from ~~[[the]]~~ water ~~to be~~ **which has been** drained ~~[[off]]~~ from the sump being located inside a container and the container is mounted **directly to** ~~[[on]]~~ the filter housing **such that the container and filter housing are in direct contact with each other.**

19. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said **element** ~~means for separating water from the fuel~~ includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the clean side of the filter element.

20. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said **element** ~~means for separating water from the fuel~~ includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the dirty side of the filter element.

21. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means **mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet** for separating contaminants from ~~[[the]]~~ water ~~to be~~ **which has been** drained ~~[[off]]~~ from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

22. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 19, wherein the means **mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet** for separating contaminants from ~~[[the]]~~ water ~~to be~~ **which has been** drained ~~[[off]]~~ from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

23. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, wherein the means **mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet** for separating contaminants from ~~[[the]]~~ water ~~to be~~ **which has been** drained ~~[[off]]~~ from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

24. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means **mounted on the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet** for separating contaminants from ~~[[the]]~~ water ~~to be~~ **which has been** drained ~~[[off]]~~ from the sump comprises a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment.

Claim 25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material ~~[[12]]~~.

Claim 27. **(Canceled)**

Appl. No. 10/540,943
Amdt. dated June 16, 2010
Reply to Office action of December 17, 2009

28. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material ~~[[(12)]]~~ at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.

29. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material ~~[[(12)]]~~ is at least partly spongelike.

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.

Claims 31-35. **(Canceled)**

36. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising at least one water level sensor (~~7, 8, 31, 33, 34~~), located in the region of the sump (51) (~~4, 32, 44, 51~~), for controlling the water outlet.

37. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 36, further comprising two water level sensors (~~7, 8, 31, 33, 34~~).

Claims 38-41. **(Canceled)**